



MEDIA RELEASE

Regional Arts Fund supports 13 new projects across NSW in 2018

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund will provide \$316,550 to support 13 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2018.

The list of successful projects encompasses a broad spectrum of art forms including music, theatre, screen, circus, visual arts and ephemeral, digital and public art. Communities across the state including Bathurst, Lismore, Coonamble, Tamworth, Walcha, Armidale, Manning Valley, Albury, the Mid North Coast, Bega and Coonabarabran will benefit from this funding.

"The demand for the RAF continues to be very high in NSW and there are so many great projects that are unable to be funded" Elizabeth Rogers, CEO of Regional Arts NSW said.

"This round received 50 applications and was very competitive due to the extremely high standard of the applications. It was great to see such a diverse range of projects from regional communities from all parts of the state," she added.

Examples of projects funded include:

- ***Four Echoes of the Heartbeat* – Stonewave Taiko and Djaadjawan Dance Group Collaboration**

Four Echoes of the Heartbeat is a collaborative artistic development between two ancient, yet contemporary, art forms; the Taiko drumming of Stonewave Taiko and the Indigenous dance of the Djaadjawan Dance Group. Through a partnership of sharing story, culture, country and spirit, powerful rhythms and evocative music will meet entrancing enigmatic movement to create a unique experience in Bega.

- ***The Climbing Tree* – Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre**

The Climbing Tree is a play about young people across the centuries in Bathurst, and how the ghosts of the past remain present. While the things that young people worry about today may be vastly different from settlement days, in many ways, things remain the same. This project has been in three years of development with playwright Rachael Coopes and composer Guy Webster in collaboration with Australian Theatre for Young People and extensive work with young people in Bathurst. This funding will support the final creative development, rehearsals and public performances of the play.

- ***NORPA Makers Hub* – Northern Rivers Performing Arts Inc.**

This project is a two year program to nurture and extend the skills and understanding of dance and physical practice for theatre practitioners in the Northern Rivers. The program will explore the intersection of dance and theatre. Through a partnership with Critical Path, NORPA can develop as a regional Makers Hub, attracting national and international practitioners that develop, inform and challenge NORPA and local artists' practice. Through fostering innovation and artistic practice the project will build on the vibrancy of creative development, grow the local artistic pool and provide opportunities for employment and new work.

- ***Living Arts & Culture* – Outback Arts Inc.**

Living Arts & Culture engages the talent of Aboriginal photographer Mervyn Bishop

as he captures the portraits of Elders and artists in Far West NSW. Professional archivist Shari Letts will work with Mervyn to record the contemporary life of the participants, telling their stories, their art-making practice, and their struggles and triumphs as contemporary Aboriginal people keeping culture alive in outback NSW. The project will produce an exhibition and publication that records the stories of regional Aboriginal Elders and artists living in the Far West communities of Cobar, Bourke, Warren, Coonamble, Walgett and Lightning Ridge.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program administered by Regional Arts Australia and Regional Arts NSW that supports sustainable, cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The funding is targeted at activities that will have long term cultural, economic and social benefits for individuals and the community through the development of partnerships and cultural networks, by providing artists with professional development and employment opportunities, and by supporting arts and community development.

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For more information about the Regional Arts Fund contact Lexie Reeves, Manager, Grants & Projects, Regional Arts NSW at funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au or (02) 9270 2500.

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A full list of successful Regional Arts Fund applicants is attached.

Regional Arts Fund NSW - List of Projects Funded 2018

The Australian Government shows its support for regional artists and arts organisations to develop their artistic practice through the Regional Arts Fund, which has an emphasis on youth, the disadvantaged, remote and Indigenous communities.

Funding targets activities that will have long term cultural, economic and social benefits for individuals and communities. Regional Arts Funding assists communities and individuals through the development of partnerships and cultural networks, by providing artists with professional development and employment opportunities, and by supporting arts and community development projects that provide local communities with opportunities to access exciting arts and cultural activities.

New Initiatives

**Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre
(Bathurst Regional Council)**

Y1: \$20,000.00

The Climbing Tree

Region: Central West

The Climbing Tree is a play about young people across centuries in Bathurst, and how the ghosts of the past are very present. The things that young people worry about may be vastly different from settlement days to now, after all it's a brave new world, but in many ways things are the same.

fLiNG Physical Theatre

Y1: \$20,000.00

My Black Dog

Y2: \$18,000.00

Region: South East NSW

My Black Dog is a new research and performance project exploring the mental health of young people in regional, rural and remote locations. The project will be facilitated by fLiNG co-artistic directors Gabrielle Rose and Rob McCredie in collaboration with Kate Denborough (KAGE). The initiative is further supported by advisors from Grand Pacific Health, SWELL Arts and Health Officer South East Arts, Bega Valley Suicide Prevention Network and welfare officers from local high schools. The project will take place over 2018/2019 involving art and wellbeing workshops, community discussions and culminating in a performance to be presented in schools and theatres throughout the Bega Valley.

**The Flying Fruit Fly
Circus**

Y1: \$18,400.00

Hand Me Down

Region: Murray

Hand Me Down is a community engagement project and creative development for a new circus work by The Flying Fruit Fly Circus (FFFC). This cross generational project will bring together adult circus and music artists with young FFFC artists and the wider FFFC community to explore ideas around sustainable lifestyles and environmental issues relevant to young people today. In collaboration with local musicians from the Murray Conservatorium and leading Australian circus artists, a work-in-progress showing of *Hand Me Down* will be presented at the Albury Library Museum as part of the Living Sustainably Festival in 2018.

Creatives Collective

Y1: \$8,670.00

Going Pro 2018

Region: Central West

Creatives Collective is a group of artists and arts workers from Coonabarabran that identify as having a disability. The group has decided to dedicate 2018 to Going Pro – they will undertake strategic planning to improve skills and professional knowledge. The year's work will culminate with a pop-up exhibition and live arts experience for the local community, the work in the exhibition will explore and educate about issues relating to disability.

Y1: \$16,190.00

Manning Valley Neighbourhood Service

A Touch of the Brush

Region: Mid North Coast

A Touch of the Brush: a Circus Performance will be held in the Wingham Brush and surrounds on The Manning River. The 'Brush' is a significant environmental and tourism icon and home to The Grey Headed Flying Fox. An on dusk performance installation as the foxes fly out will feature an aerial performance in the rainforest trees, launching of an endangered Manning River Turtle stilt costumes, a guest appearance of the Grey Headed Flying Fox stilt troupe and ground entertainment involving adagio, character work and circus skills. The performance will be accompanied by a sound-scape created by a local artist.

Walcha Council (Arts Advisory Committee)

Y1: \$20,000.00

Walcha Sculpture Symposium

Region: Northern Tablelands

Over 10 days, four professional artists (selected by an independent panel from an expressions of interest process) will mentor local emerging artists – developing their skills, collaborating and engaging with the community whilst creating large scale public sculptures for Walcha's Open Air Gallery.

Visitors and local community organisations and groups will be able to engage with the artists at work, with the site being accessible to all abilities. The *Walcha Sculpture Symposium* will stimulate and nurture ongoing high-quality arts and cultural activity within the Walcha community and surrounding region – leading a tangible social and cultural legacy.

Outback Arts Inc.

Y1: \$20,000.00

Living Arts & Culture

Region: Northern NSW

Living Arts & Culture engages the talent of Aboriginal photographer Mervyn Bishop as he captures the portraits of Elders and artists in Far West NSW. Professional archivist Shari Letts will work with Mervyn to record the contemporary life of the participants, telling their stories, their art-making practice and their struggles and triumphs as contemporary Aboriginal people keeping culture alive in outback NSW. The project will produce an exhibition and publication that records the stories of regional Aboriginal Elders and artists living in the Far West communities of Cobar, Bourke, Warren, Coonamble, Walgett and Lightning Ridge.

Lingua Franca Physical Theatre

Y1: \$29,800.00

The Lingua Franca Ensemble

Y2: \$30,000.00

Region: Central West

Lingua Franca will develop an ensemble of artists to establish a consistent approach to physical performance making in their home, Bathurst. This projects aims to establish a more viable and sustainable model of making original, vibrant contemporary performance in regional Australia. It will provide consistent opportunity for regionally based/connected artists to access employment and professional development in their region and establish Lingua Franca's visibility and viability as a valuable artistic force in the region. The *Lingua Franca Ensemble* will consolidate the company's artistic relationships with artists, audiences and community through performance labs, creative development, and the presentation of new work.

Partnerships

Screenwave

Y1: \$19,000.00

REC Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival 2018 - Workshops

Region: Mid North Coast

REC Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival enters its fourth year in 2018, continuing its mission to find and develop young filmmakers (aged 12 to 25) from around regional NSW. The annual festival includes a workshop program, a short film competition and a regional screening tour. There is a dual focus with the festival as it aims to destigmatize mental health support services for young regional people needing help.

Tamworth Regional Council

Y1: \$18,000.00

Digital Storytelling Projection Mapping – Capacity Building Workshops and Ephemeral Public Art

Region: New England

The project will reinforce the skills upgrade of six local digital artists, who will create digital projection art on the region's architecture, an increasingly viable new industry. They will use their digital art skills to create digital narratives reflecting the diversity of the local community. The participants will commit to workshops for multicultural local youth, including Aboriginal young people, ensuring the project's sustainability. The project includes a series of five architectural projections, culminating at the local Multicultural event *Fiesta La Peel* 2018.

New England Regional Art Museum

Y1: \$20,000.00

2018 Wimble's Wayzgoose

Region: New England

New England Regional Art Museum in partnership with the Black Gully Printmakers and the Queensland College of Art will hold the second Wimble's Wayzgoose event in early 2018 to promote national awareness and local community involvement in the Museum of Printing and its collection. The event will include a Print Room exhibition in the Museum; four printmaking artists in residence in Armidale; a half-day seminar on printing, printmaking, typography and design; the inaugural F.T. Wimble public lecture on printing history; letterpress printing activities and demonstrations; four practical printmaking workshops/masterclasses; a community open day with presentations, performances, print-maker's market and food stalls.

Northern Rivers Performing Arts Inc.

Y1: \$19,310.00

NORPA Makers Hub, a Choreographic Centre for Devised Theatre

Y2: \$19,310.00

Region: Northern Rivers

This project is a two-year program to nurture and extend the skills and understanding of dance and physical practice for theatre practitioners in the Northern Rivers. The program will explore the intersection of dance and theatre: how choreography can embody and provide different methodologies to performance making.

Through a partnership with Critical Path, NORPA can develop as a regional Makers Hub, attracting national and international practitioners that develop, inform and challenge NORPA and local artists' practice. Through fostering innovation and artist practice we build on the vibrancy of creative development, grow the local artistic pool and opportunities for employment and new work.

**Stonewave Taiko and Djaadjawan Dance
Group**

Y1: \$19,870.00

Four Echoes of the Heartbeat

Region: South East NSW

Four Echoes of the Heartbeat is a collaborative artistic development between two ancient yet contemporary art forms; the Taiko drumming of Stonewave Taiko and the Indigenous dance of the Djaadjawan Dance Group. Through a partnership of sharing story, culture, country and spirit, powerful rhythms and evocative music will meet entrancing enigmatic movement to create a unique experience.
